

Foreword by the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Artillery

From the first recorded use of artillery in Canada by Jacques Cartier in 1534, gunners have played a key role at many important junctures in the history of our nation. During war, the deterrence of conflict, and in peace, they have faithfully and skilfully applied the science and art of their calling to the defence and security of their country and the well-being of its people. Today, regiments and batteries of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery make their homes from Victoria to Halifax. All modern-day members of the Regiment may find inspiration in the exploits of their predecessors, and in no unit is this more the case than in 3rd Field Artillery Regiment (The Loyal Company), RCA – proud steward of a New Brunswick artillery heritage more than 220 years in the making.

In taking up the story of the “Loyal Gunners” where Captain John Baxter left it in 1893, and bringing it all the way to 2012, the Loyal Company Association and the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick have made an exceptionally valuable contribution to the preservation and interpretation of the noble record of service of not only New Brunswick Gunners, but of the Royal Regiment as a whole. The authors’ descriptions of the vicissitudes of war and peace experienced through the years by The Loyal Company and its many perpetuated and associated regiments and batteries raised in the province will ring true in the ears of gunners across the country. So too, will be familiar and equally stirring their portrayal of the great constant of this account, which is the dedication, courage, and sacrifice of the citizen-soldiers of Saint John and New Brunswick

who have filled the ranks of these fine gunner units to serve their country at home and abroad. On behalf of all members of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, I congratulate and thank all of those who have taken a hand in the completion of this most worthy undertaking.

Brigadier-General James J. Selbie, O.M.M., C.D. (ret'd)
Colonel Commandant
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery